SAN GORGONIO HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEM, OPERATOR'S GARAGE
San Bernardino National Forest
Banning vicinity
Riverside County
California

HAER CA-2278-F
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

SAN GORGONIO HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEM,
OPERATOR'S GARAGE

HAER No. CA-2278-F

Location: The San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System Operator's Garage is located at the San Gorgonio Powerhouse No. 1 site; approximately 93 feet west of Powerhouse No. 1. The Powerhouse No.1 site is located within the San Bernardino County portion of the system near the southwestern edge of Big Oaks Canyon in Sections 2; T.2S., R.1E. on the San Gorgonio Mountain USGS topographic map. The Operator's Garage is located at latitude: 34.030577, longitude: -116.857538. The coordinate represents the center of the building. This coordinate was obtained on June 30, 2010 using GPS mapping grade unit accurate +/- 3 meters after differential correction. The coordinate's datum is North American Datum 1983. The Operator's Garage location has no restriction on its release to the public.

Significance: Operator's Garage is a contributing feature to the San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System. The system itself was found to form a locally significant district of resources with a high degree of integrity eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The system was found eligible under Criterion A, for its representation of 1920s hydroelectric development in southern California and the system was also found to be eligible under Criterion C for architecture and engineering. In terms of engineering the system is significant for its use of tanks rather than forebays, which represented a departure from typical western hydroelectric systems, using a technique more common to the eastern United States and its utilization automatic controls which were a new innovation in the 1920s and later became an industry standard. Additionally, in terms of architecture, the two powerhouses were found to be good examples of utilitarian structures influenced by Classical Revival style architecture.

Description: The Operator's Garage associated with San Gorgonio Powerhouse No. 1. It consists of a wood framed garage building that has elements of the Craftsman style. The building has a rectangular plan with an (early) extension made to the rear elevation; including the extension, the building measures 22' x 24'. The exterior walls are clad with wood clapboard siding. The foundation of the building appears to be stone. It is covered by a front gabled roof clad with wood shingles; there are also open eaves, exposed rafter tails with angled ends and a triangular wood lattice vent above the garage's vehicle entrance. The vehicle entrance opening is approximately 7'-6" high and 18'-6" wide and is covered by sliding double wood doors with diagonal wood planks. The doors rest on an extended metal garage door track that is supported by a wood post. Fenestration consists of window openings on the side elevation that have been covered with wood boards. The window openings measure 3' in height and 4' in width. The overall condition of the Operator's Garage is fair. There are sections of the wood siding missing on the rear elevation and the rear edge of the roof that makes up the eaves is sagging due to rot.

History: The Operator's Garage was constructed between 1922 and 1923. The wood-framed garage is located adjacent to and northwest of San Gorgonio Powerhouse No. 1. Due to its large size both in height and width, it appears that it was constructed to function primarily as storage for service trucks and or equipment. The architect and

engineer for the building are not known and the contractor was C.D. Sotiras. There are no original plans remaining for this building. Alterations to the building include a possible addition to the rear exterior of the building. Please see the General History section in the Historic American Engineering Record for the San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System (HAER No. CA-2278) for additional information.

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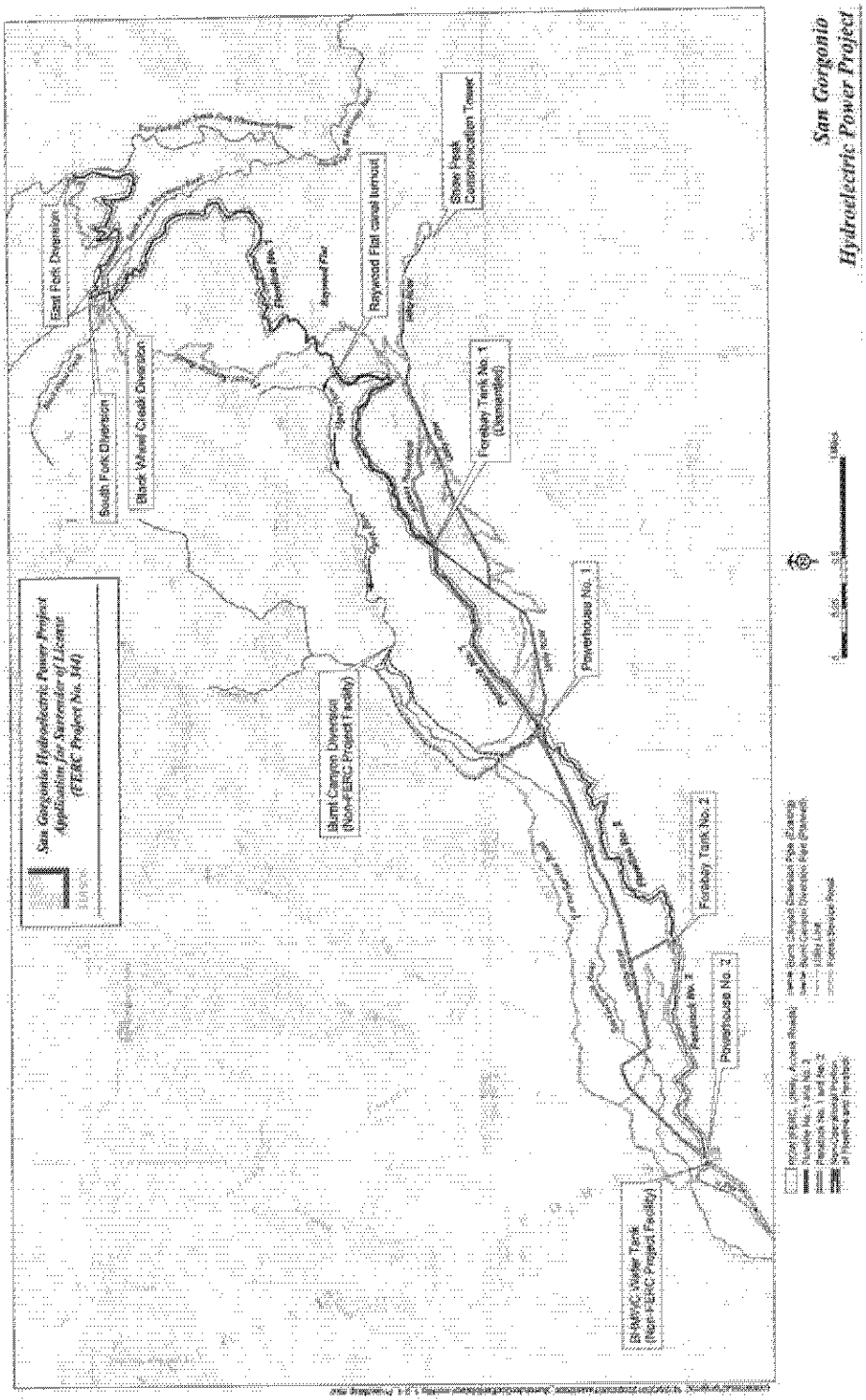
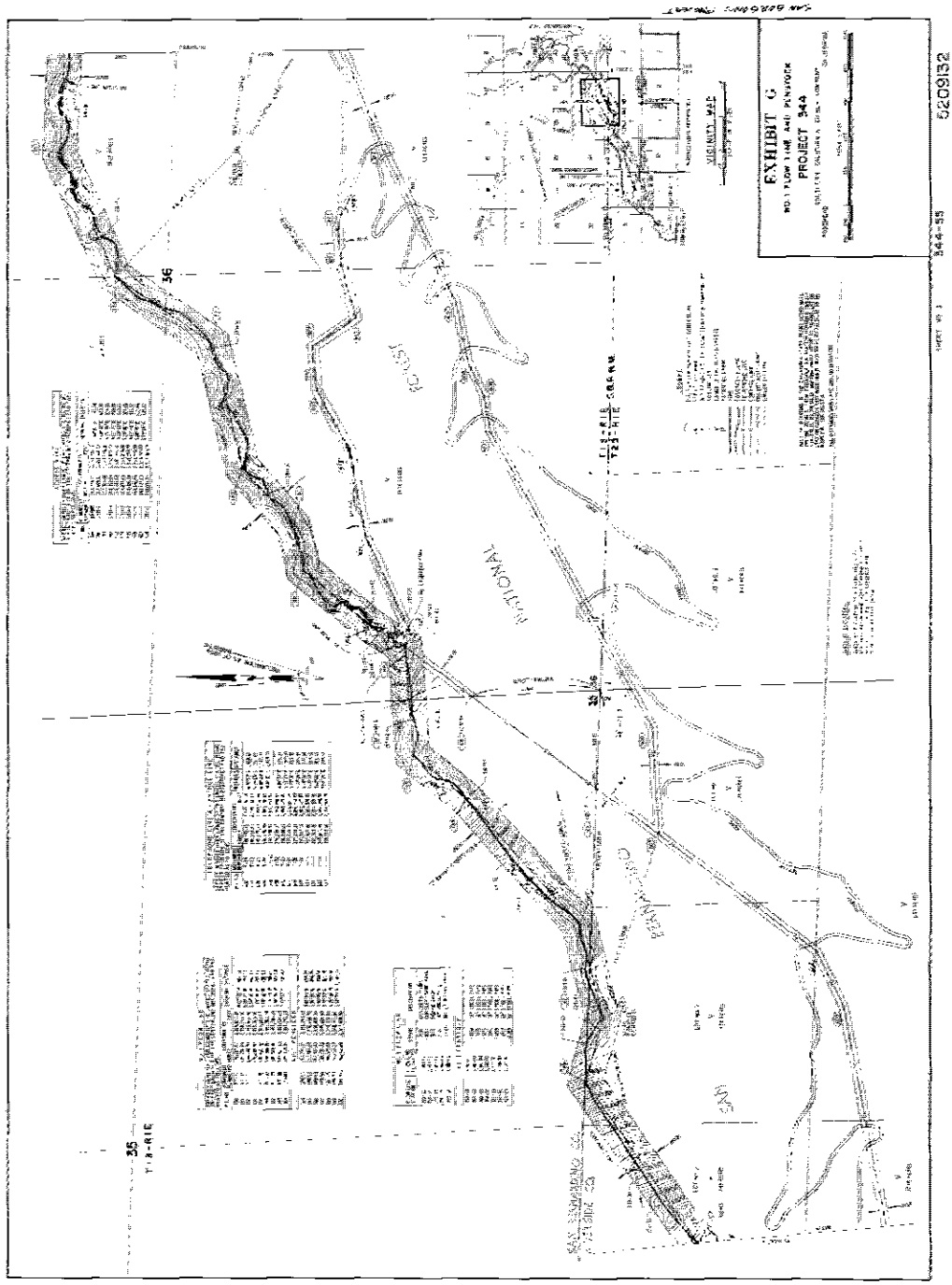
Historian: Ben Taniguchi, Historian, and Nicole Collum, Architectural Historian II, Galvin Preservation Associates, 1611 S. Pacific Coast Highway, #104, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, 2009-2010.

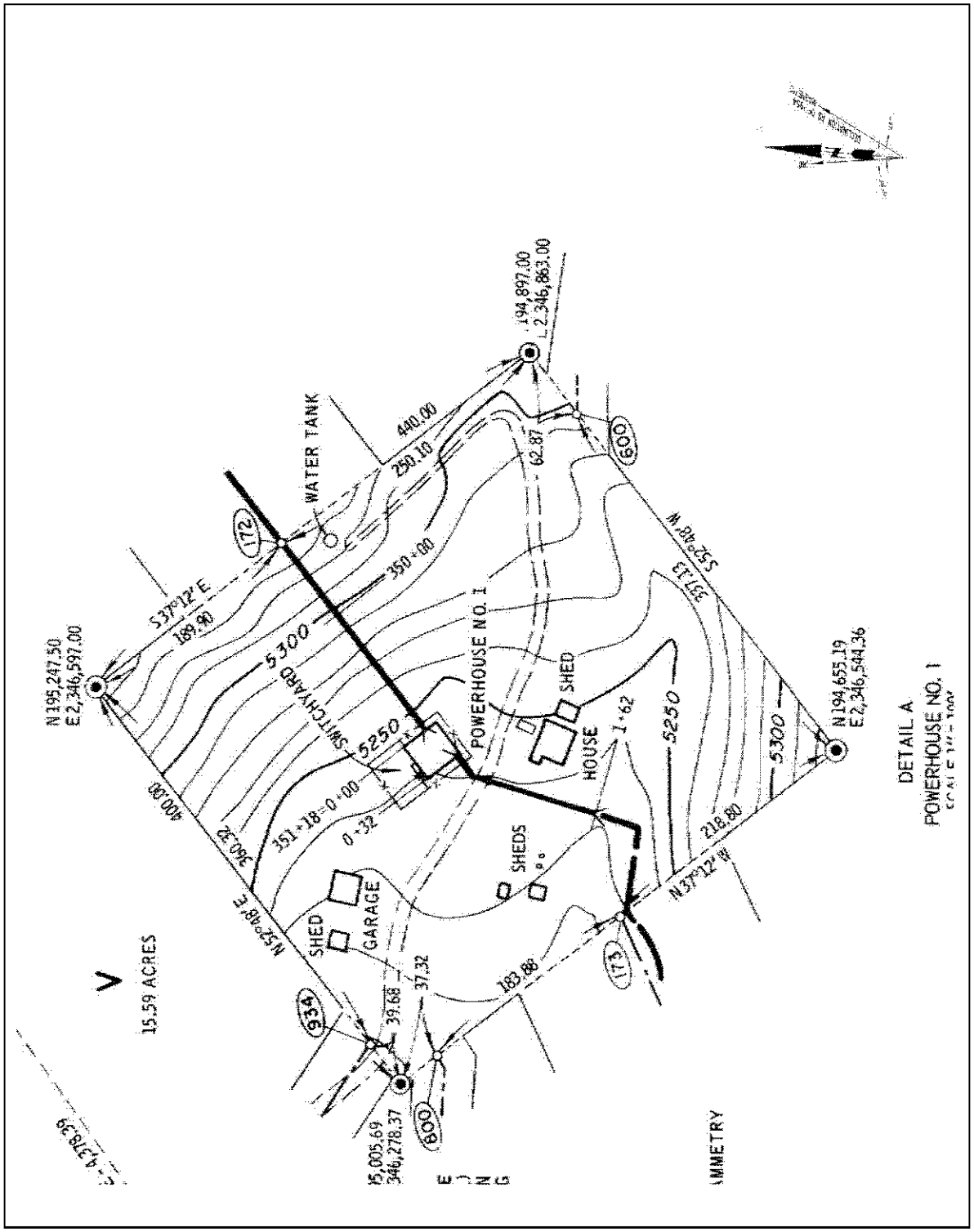
Project Information: SCE is planning to decommission the project's two power plants and part of their appurtenant water conveyance system. Some of the project components are scheduled to be decommissioned and removed, decommissioned and abandoned in place, or transferred to new ownership. The hydroelectric generators and other pieces of hardware and equipment will be removed from the powerhouse buildings, but the buildings will remain. Components slated for removal will be demolished using bulldozers where present access exists and other components will be removed using hand crews where there is no present vehicle access. The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency plans to acquire those project facilities that are not decommissioned and use these remaining facilities to continue to divert and transport water for domestic and irrigation purposes to customers of the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company and the city of Banning. The transferred facilities would no longer be used for the generation of power. As a result of this project the San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System was documented with Historic American Engineering Records. The entire system was documented in an overview report, San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System HAER No. CA-2278 and each contributing element of the system was documented with separate supporting reports as follows: San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, East Fork Dam and Intake, HAER No. CA-2278-A; San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, South Fork Dam and Intake, HAER No. CA-2278-B; San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, Powerhouse No. 1, HAER No. CA-2278-C; San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, Tank No. 1 and Penstock No. 1, HAER No. CA-2278-D; San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, Operator's Bungalow, HAER No. CA-2278-E; San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, Operator's Garage, HAER No. CA-2278-F; San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, Powerhouse No. 2, HAER No. CA-2278-G; San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, Flowline No. 2, Tank No. 2, & Penstock No. 2, HAER No. CA-2278-H.



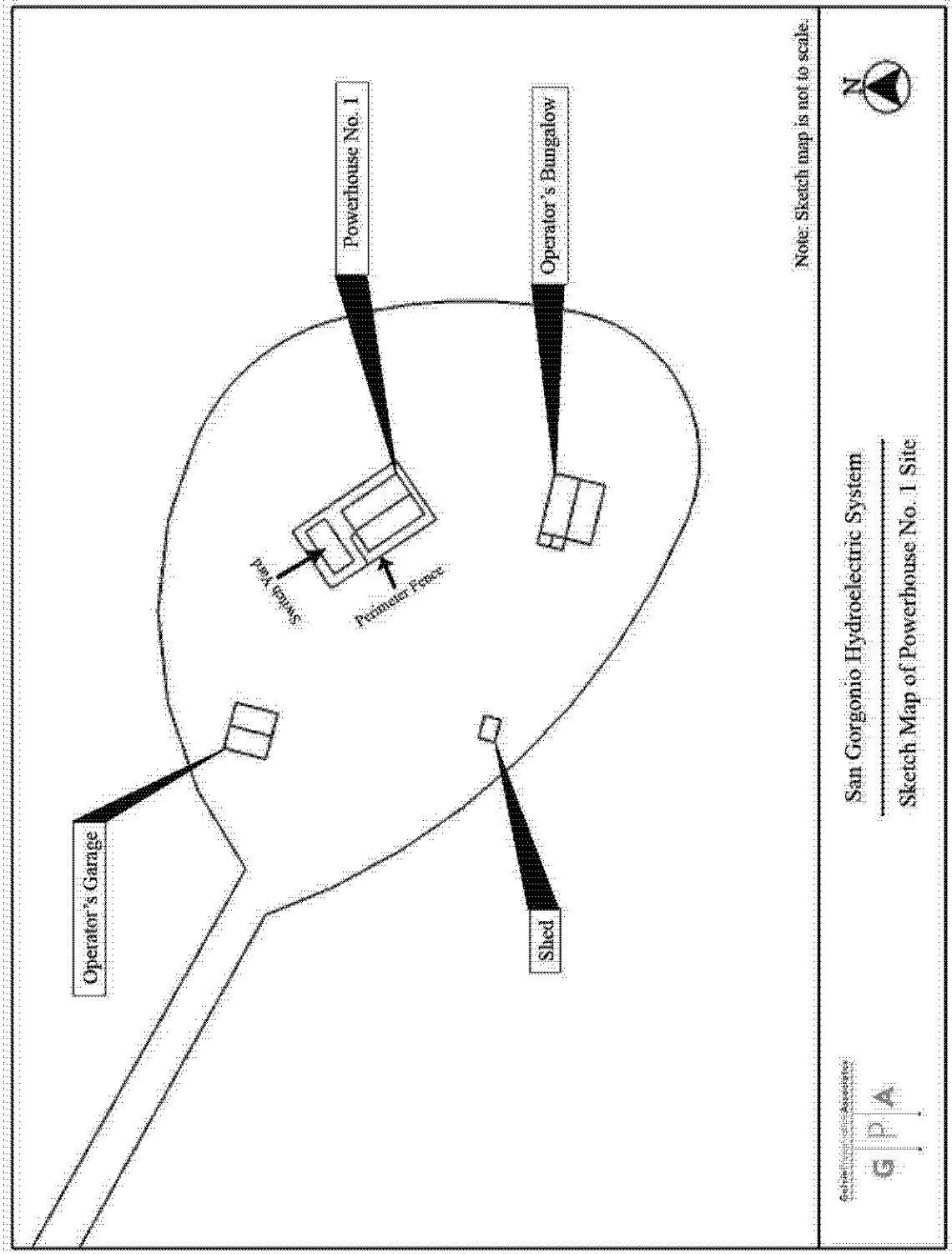
Reduced size overview map of the San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System. Map courtesy of Southern California Edison Company.



Reduced size plan of Flowline No. 1 and No.2 with Powerhouse No.1 site identified to the northeast. Original drawing courtesy of Southern California Edison. Full size image available in the Field Records Section of the HAER for the San Gorgonio Hydroelectric System, HAER No. CA-2278.



Detail of Powerhouse No.1 site taken from previous reduced size plan. Original drawing courtesy of Southern California Edison.



Sketch plan for Powerhouse No.1 site. Sketch plan created by Galvin Preservation Associates 2010